

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A gaming method for playing a reel selection slot machine, the method comprising:

spinning a plurality of reels within a display window, the plurality of reels each displaying one or more game symbols;

selecting a subset of the currently spinning reels from the plurality of reels for use in determining a game outcome, wherein the selection of the reels for use in determining a game outcome is player controlled;

removing the non-selected reels from a player's view within the display window;

consolidating the selected subset of the reels within the display window, wherein consolidating the selected reels within the display window comprises juxtapositioning juxtapositioning the selected subset of the reels to eliminate any non-contiguous positioning of the selected reels produced by the removal of the non-selected reels; and

stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels and determining if the selected subset of reels produce a winning game outcome, and awarding a prize if a winning game outcome is achieved.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: stopping the spinning of the selected reels, before the consolidating of the selected reels within the display window.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: stopping the spinning of the selected reels, before the removing of the non-selected reels from a player's view within the display window.

- 5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of reels are video representations of physical reels.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
randomly changing the position of the selected reels after the removing of the non-selected reels.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gaming method is used as a bonus game in conjunction with an underlying primary game.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a winning game outcome in the bonus game results in a prize that is added to a prize won in the underlying primary game.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a winning game outcome in the bonus game results in multiplying a prize won in the underlying primary game.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a non-winning game outcome in the bonus game reduces a prize won in the underlying primary game.
14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a non-winning game outcome in the bonus game includes at least the possibility of losing a prize won in the underlying primary game.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gaming method is used as a primary game.
16. (Currently amended) A gaming method for playing a reel selection slot machine that includes a plurality of reels, the method comprising:
spinning the plurality of reels;
selecting a subset of the currently spinning reels from the plurality of reels, wherein the subset of currently spinning reels is used to determine for use in determining a game outcome, wherein the selection of the subset of reels for use in determining a game outcome is player controlled;
removing the non-selected reels from a player's view before determining the game outcome;

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rearranging the selected subset of the currently spinning reels adjacent to one another before determining the game outcome; and

stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels and determining if the selected reels produce a winning game outcome; and

awarding a prize if a winning game outcome is achieved.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising: stopping the spinning of the selected reels, before the rearranging of the selected reels adjacent to one another.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising: stopping the spinning of the selected reels, before the removing of the non-selected reels from a player's view.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein rearranging the selected reels within the display window comprises juxtapositioning juxtapositioning the selected reels to eliminate any non-contiguous positioning of the selected reels produced by the removal of the non-selected reels.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the plurality of reels are video representations of physical reels.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

randomly changing the position of the selected reels after the removing of the non-selected reels.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the gaming method is used as a bonus game in conjunction with an underlying primary game.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a winning game outcome in the bonus game results in a prize that is added to a prize won in the underlying primary game.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a winning game outcome in the bonus game results in multiplying a prize won in the underlying primary game.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a non-winning game outcome in the bonus game reduces a prize won in the underlying primary game.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a non-winning game outcome in the bonus game includes at least the possibility of losing a prize won in the underlying primary game.

30. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the gaming method is used as a primary game.

31. (Currently amended) A gaming method for playing a reel selection slot machine, the method comprising:

spinning a plurality of reels, each reel displaying game symbols thereon;

selecting a subset of the currently spinning reels from the plurality of reels, wherein the subset of reels is used to determine for use in determining a game outcome;

juxtapositioning juxtapositioning the selected subset of the currently spinning reels to eliminate any non-contiguous positioning of the selected subset of the currently spinning reels resulting from interstitial location of non-selected reels before stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels; and

stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels; and

determining if the selected subset of reels produce a winning game outcome, and awarding a prize if a winning game outcome is achieved.

32. (new) A method for playing a reel selection slot machine, the method comprising:

spinning a plurality of reels, wherein the plurality of reels each displaying one or more game symbols;

selecting a subset of the currently spinning reels from the plurality of reels, wherein the subset of currently spinning reels is used to determine a game outcome;

removing the non-selected spinning reels from a player's view within the display window before determining the game outcome;

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consolidating the subset of the currently spinning reels within the display window, wherein consolidating the subset of the currently spinning reels comprises juxtapositioning the subset of the currently spinning reels to eliminate any non-contiguous positioning of the subset of the currently spinning reels produced by the removal of the non-selected spinning reels;

stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels and determining if the selected subset of reels produce a winning game outcome; and

awarding a prize if a winning game outcome is achieved.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein the reels are mechanical reels.

34. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising randomly changing the positions of the currently spinning reels after the removing of the non-selected reels.

35. (new) A method for playing a reel selection slot machine, the method comprising:

initiating a bonus game in response to a triggering event in a primary game by spinning a plurality of reels, wherein the plurality of reels each displaying one or more game symbols;

selecting a subset of the currently spinning reels from the plurality of reels, wherein the subset of currently spinning reels is used to determine a game outcome;

removing the non-selected spinning reels from a player's view within the display window before determining the game outcome;

consolidating the subset of the currently spinning reels within the display window, wherein consolidating the subset of the currently spinning reels comprises juxtapositioning the subset of the currently spinning reels to eliminate any non-contiguous positioning of the subset of the currently spinning reels produced by the removal of the non-selected spinning reels;

stopping the subset of the currently spinning reels and determining if the selected subset of reels produce a winning game outcome; and

awarding a prize if a winning game outcome is achieved.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising decreasing a prize of the primary game in response to a non-winning game outcome of the bonus game.